Equal Rights

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SATURDAY
JULY 25, 1931

May Oung

Feminist of Burma, India, who represents the All-Asian Conference of Women on the Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality.

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Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929,
by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House April 25, 1929,
by REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK W. MAGRADY,
Pennsylvania.

Equality in Politics

SEVERAL Governors and members of Congress have indicated to the National Woman's Party their views on the question of equal opportunity for women in politics and public office as set forth in resolutions adopted by the Party Workers' Conference.

Governor J. E. Erickson of Montana writes to Mrs. Claude Elder of Montana that he is "in entire sympathy with the contents of these resolutions."

Representative Frank L. Bowman of the Second West Virginia Congressional District writes to E. Emma Bishop of the West Virginia Branch of the Woman's Party:

> "I assure you that I am in general accord with the views expressed at this meeting, and believe the women are such great factors in our patriotic and public life that they must be given full recognition in appointments, *et cetera*, for their activities. If you have any specific suggestions to make at any time as to how I can comply with these views, I hope you will feel free to write to me."

Representative Bowman will doubtless hear from West Virginia women! For one thing, he could support the Equal Rights Amendment in Congress.

Senator M. M. Neely of West Virginia writes to Mrs. Bishop that he thinks the fact he has appointed women to three of the four clerkships to which he as Senator is entitled might be "considered not only a sufficient but a satisfactory reply." He did not say whether the one man or one of the three women got the highest-paid job among the clerkships.

Representative John M. Evans of Montana wrote to Mrs. Elder:

> "I will be pleased to co-operate in any way I can to carry out the spirit of this resolution."

How much the co-operation of all who believe in the principle of equality of opportunity as between men and women in the election and appointment of public officials is needed may be seen in the article, "Women in Public Office," published in this issue and based on the survey made by the League of Women Voters following the 1930 elections. Very little progress has been made recently. Women have been elected or appointed to very few new positions.

Fewer women will be in the Seventy-second Congress than were in the Seventy-first unless women are chosen to fill some of the existing vacancies caused by death of Congressmen.

Several places once filled by women in high appointive offices in the Federal Government are no longer filled by women. The only new position of note to which a woman has been appointed during the present national administration is that of member of the United States Board of Tax Appeals.

Women should change this state of affairs. Women should insist that majority parties nominate women for high elective office, and should cast their lot with the political party which nominates, and works for the election of, women of Feminist principles. They should likewise insist that the political party in power in national, State, or local government appoint women to good appointive offices; women, that is, who believe in equality.

Governors can help, for they appoint officials. Senators and Congressmen can help, for they recommend to the President the appointment of various Federal officials in their States.

"The Courage to Refuse to Work"

ACTING DEAN GEORGE W. MULLINS told the Barnard College seniors that they ought not to "compete with the millions of unemployed men and women for jobs." He said, according to the New York *Times*, that the greatest service the girls could render the Nation would be "to have the courage to refuse to work for gain."

We have looked and listened in vain for somebody to tell the man at Harvard and Yale and elsewhere that they should "have the courage to refuse to work for gain" in this crisis.

Should the girls also have the courage to refuse to eat?

California Women Defeat Bill Against Marriage

AT the last meeting of the Business Women's Legislative Council of California the chairman and members reported their activities in opposing the various discriminatory bills before the 1931 State Legislature. We quote in part from the Secretary's minutes of the secretary, Frances M. Siener, as quoted in the June 23 bulletin of the Council:

Amelia F. Johnson, attorney-at-law, Los Angeles, official representative of the California Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs at the 1931 session of the California State Legislature reports:

That the following bills of particular concern to women in gainful occupation were introduced and considered by the legislators:

Assembly Bill 1630, introduced January 23, 1931, provided,

Sec. 2. "It shall be unlawful for any person, whether elected, appointed or commissioned to fill any office in either the State, county, or city and county or city government of this State, or in any department thereof, or in any school district, to appoint or employ any *married woman who is not the head of a family.*

Sec. 3. "No money shall be paid out of the State treasury or out of the treasury of any county or city and county, or city, or out of any school fund, to *any married woman who is not the head of a family,* employed in any of the offices mentioned in Section 2 of this act."

Sec. 4. "Any officer, agent or representative of the State of California or of any county, or city and county, or city or school district therein, who shall violate any of the provisions of this act shall be punished by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment, not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

Section 1 defines the terms Married Woman, Husband, and Head of Family in such language as to exclude practically every married woman from the business world.

On March 9, in open Assembly, the sponsor of this bill requested that the measure be withdrawn. The result was that no action was taken by the Committee on Labor and Capital to which it had been referred and so it slowly, but effectively, sank into oblivion.

Assembly Bill 138, introduced January 13, provided in part that "The Commission on Civil Service shall refuse to examine any married woman whose husband is living unless such married woman presents with her application a verified statement setting forth that the position is sought in good faith, to enable the applicant to support herself, or herself and others dependent on her, giving their names and relation; and the fact of insufficient support from her husband and the causes thereof."

Assembly Bill 378, introduced January 19, provided in part that "No married woman shall be eligible to take the civil service examination and/or be temporarily appointed as in this act provided, if the husband of such married woman, at the time of such examination, is earning the sum of one hundred fifty dollars per month or over. All applications of married women for appointment and/or examination shall set forth such fact."

Both bills, 138 and 378, were at the request of their sponsors, soon after the withdrawal of Assembly Bill 1630, tabled in the Civil Service Committee to which they had been referred and later amended by deleting the portions relating to married women.

Assembly Bill 254, introduced January 15, contained the following provision:

"Any person who is the head of a family and has others dependent upon him or her for care of maintenance, shall be entitled to the following credits on all examinations, except where the duties of the position to be filled are of a hazardous or extra hazardous nature.

"If the person, regardless of sex, is over the age of twenty-five years he or she shall be allowed a credit of one-half of one per cent. for each year over the age of twenty-five years, to and including the age of fifty years. The maximum credit allowed under the provisions of this section shall be twelve and one-half per cent. All applicants over the age of fifty years who are entitled to credit under the provisions of the section shall be given a credit of twelve and one-half per cent.

"No person shall be allowed any examination credit under the provisions of this section unless he shall, before taking any examination, file with the commission an affidavit showing the number of persons dependent upon him, and the nature of such dependency in each case. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to repeal or modify the provisions of this act relating to the examination credits allowed veterans."

This is the only one of the discriminatory measures against women which was voted on by the Assembly, and it was refused passage by an overwhelming majority.

Assembly Bill 686, introduced January 21, was a skeleton bill attempting to amend the Eight-Hour Law for Women. This measure was reported to have been requested by a group of women engaged in the boiling of candy. At the 1929 session, a skeleton bill was introduced to amend the Eight-Hour Law for Women, in that instance by undergraduate nurses and women pharmacists.

While no action was taken on either of these measures, they are of interest to women because they indicate that the groups who requested the proposed amendments must have felt a handicap resulting from the application of the provisions of the supposedly protective law.

Assembly Bill 1226, introduced January 22, attempted to extend the provisions of the Eight-Hour Law for Women to 'operators of all elevators' instead of elevator operators in office buildings; to beauty parlors; and to women in executive positions.

Arguments for and against this measure were heard by the Assembly Judiciary Committee, which, on conclusion of discussion, voted to table the bill.

After the foregoing bills had been satisfactorially disposed of, Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 27 was introduced, providing that "Men and women shall have Equal Rights in California."

No action was taken on this measure.

The introduction of the discriminatory statutes caused great consternation and women everywhere, throughout the State, protested the indignity and injustice thereof. Daily papers gave the subject front page publicity.

Defeat of the measures was accompanied by declaration that these bills never were seriously considered as possible law. One legislator, however, stated that he firmly believed in the bills when they were first presented but that he had changed his opinion after scanning pertinent statistics submitted by the Business and Professional Women and observing the well organized group of women who had definitely prescribed purpose and, on the whole, a real need for business occupation.

The attitude displayed toward the various measures as they were one by one eliminated from the files indicated plainly that this particular legislator was not alone in his changed views.

" 'Tis an ill wind which blows no good" is a most fitting thought to ponder. Few, perhaps none of us, believed that in this age of progress by women, such legislation would be even thought of, and defeat might have been ours had the attack been less pronounced. Confronted, however, with such widespread and sweeping discrimination, even the most indifferent of our numbers sensed at first glance the injustice, and the result is that we now enjoy co-operation and a solidarity unknown in years.

Mary F. Leddy, treasurer, Pasadena Business and Professional Women's Club and secretary of the Los Angeles Chapter, California State Employees Association, stated that there had been several meetings of the State employees; that a delegation representing some 17,000 State em-

ployees had gone to Sacramento to protest the passage of the so-called "married women" bills and the "re-examination" bill; and that all the women employees of the State were happy over the final outcome.

Anne F. Liedendeker, principal of the Department of Science and Industry of the Los Angeles Library, and past president of the National Business and Professional Women's Club of Los Angeles, spoke before the All City Employees Association of Los Angeles; circulated the Council's bulletins and the resolution of protest adopted by the Council, December 19, 1930; also stated that women employees of the Los Angeles Public Library had been active in opposing the "married women" bills; and that information concerning these measures had been furnished all chapters of the county and State Library Association.

Maxine E. Robertson, chairman of District No. 7, Confederation of Zonta Clubs, and newly-elected president of the Los Angeles Zonta Club, contacted individually members of the Zonta Clubs, many of whom acted upon the suggestion of protesting the "married women" bills.

Emma L. Brugman, past chairman of the Woman's Division of the Credit Men's Association, stated that individual members of the Women's Division had vigorously protested the passage of the "married women" bills.

Ada S. Watson, member of the Soroptimist Club, gave extracts from the Council's bulletins concerning the "married women" bills to the Soroptimist meetings.

The Nationality Report

THE Woman's Consultative Committee on Nationality created by January, 1931, resolution of the Council of the League of Nations ended its first conference on July 6 at noon, at the Secretariat of the League of Nations in Geneva, by signing the report agreed upon by the members of the committee. This report is to be transmitted to the Assembly of the League at its September session.

The report is in three parts:

I. Statement

THIS contains the committee's opposition to The Hague Nationality Convention and endorses the proposal introduced by Chile at The Hague, which reads as follows:

> "The contracting States agree that from the going into effect of this convention there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice relating to nationality."

It urges the Assembly to reconsider The Hague Nationality Convention and to submit to the governments a new convention based on equality between men and women in nationality.

II. Memorandum

This contains the articles of The Hague Convention relating to the nationality of women and reasons why women are opposed to them. It shows also the present status of the convention, the main point being that only two countries, Monaco and Norway, have ratified it. There are also answers to arguments against equality and reasons for reopening the question of The Hague Convention. It stresses the fact that no enduring code of law can be built without the support of women, and women will not support a code unless it is based on justice. It ends with a detailed explanation of how equality is to be applied in an international convention.

III. Appendix

The appendix contains tables of the laws of the countries of the world, showing to what extent equality in nationality already exists. These tables were prepared by Alice Paul, chairman of the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and founder of the National Woman's Party of the United States, from her monumental report on nationality. For this brilliant work, Miss Paul received the acclamation of the committee.

The ceremony of signing was attended by many visitors, and the historic event recorded by the League photographer and by movies.

The signing of this document marks an important step in women's work to establish the principle of equality in the new world code which is under consideration by the League of Nations.

Women first took an active interest in the codification movement in 1928. The Inter-American Commission of Women asked to have introduced into the 1928 Assembly a resolution asking governments to send women plenipotentiaries to The Hague Conference because it was to deal with the question of women's nationality. The Assembly adopted this resolution, and a few governments sent women plenipotentiaries. Not enough women, however, were sent to represent the views of women in the matter of their nationality. Therefore, when The Hague Nationality Convention, based on inequality, was adopted, women all over the world protested against the convention.

After The Hague Conference, the whole matter of codification was referred to the League. Then it was that women, again under the leadership of the Inter-American Commission of Women, persuaded the League to consider the reopening of the whole question of an international agreement on woman's nationality. The Council adopted a resolution creating the committee which has just met in Geneva.

This is the first time in history that all the leading women's international organizations have united to secure an international treaty which, when accepted, will establish world-wide equality for women in their nationality rights.

The divisions in the committee, although not of a serious character, often provoked sharp debates. One of the spectators was overheard to say, "There are moments when the debates are as brilliant as the best I have ever heard at the League of Nations or in my own Parliament." The divisions were mainly on policy rather than on the principle of equality. All the organizations were united in wanting the code to be founded upon the enduring principles of justice and equality. Some delegates, however, wished to specify the particular way in which equality should be achieved. This the American women opposed resolutely. They did not want governments to be compelled to establish equality in any special way to conform to the general principle of equality written in an international agreement. They wanted to leave that to the individual governments to determine.

There was also an interesting division, although the women were not sitting as nationals, between the Old World and the New World. From the beginning, the nationals of the New World voted consistently for public sessions; for permission to allow the alternates to be present in the room even though the chief delegates were acting; for inclusion of the press; for a brief, simple, non-technical document which every man and woman could understand; for the exclusion of all history, propaganda, arguments of opponents of equality and answers to these opponents; for the similar exclusion of repeated reference to the humiliation, subordination, subjection, of women; for brevity; for signing at the end of the concrete proposals to be made to the League of Nations. For all these things the Americans stood.

The Old World, which has not progressed as far as the Western Hemisphere towards equality in nationality, wanted to include many contentious items, because, as its representatives frankly stated, they hoped to use this document as propaganda in their individual countries. The Americans wished to eliminate propaganda, leaving that to the individual organizations themselves to further in any way they choose. The report, therefore, may be said to be a compromise.

At the closing session it was agreed

that a sub-committee of eight be appointed, composed of one member of the committee from each of the organizations constituting the committee. Lillian von Matsch of Austria was appointed temporary chairman of this committee. It was decided that she would take charge of the preliminary work of calling together a plenary meeting during the last week of August or the first of September. It is expected that the governments will have replied to the Secretary-General giving their comments on the committee's report by this time.

Frau von Matsch is an American by birth, and also by nationality, although she is also an Austrian by nationality because the law of Austria, her husband's country, compels her to be so. Herr von Matsch has been a delegate from Austria to the League of Nations ever since the formation of the League. Frau von Matsch is young and beautiful, energetic and gifted. She is an author and playwright, several of her plays having been produced.

Clara Guthrie d'Arcis was chosen treassurer of the new committee, and the initial pledges of each organization were made at the final meeting.

As far as is known, this is the first time in history that a report was ever made exclusively by women on the subject of their rights, and the first time that women were ever commissioned to do so by so world-wide a body as the League of Nations.

It is extraordinary with what harmony the delegates of such widely different organizations worked throughout the session. Among the delegates were women nationals of countries where women's position is still not very advanced, and others where they have gone much farther toward equality. As organizations too they represented all degrees of pace in methods of work, from the most conservative to the swiftest. But the principle of equality united them all.

THE first session of the committee was called together by J. A. Buero, head of the Legal Department of the League, who spoke in part as follows:

"The present committee has been set up by the organizations which you represent in response to the invitation addressed to those organizations by the Secretary-General in his letter of February 15, with the terms of which you are doubtless familiar.

"The Council's decision of January 24, 1931, has placed on the agenda of the next session of the Assembly the question of continued study by the League of the problem of the nationality of women. . . . .

"When deciding to submit this question to the Assembly, the Council suggested that the Secretary-General should consult various organizations specially concerned with the nationality of women, feeling that it would be desirable that the Assembly should be in possession of the views of the organizations which you represent; the Council also authorized the Secretary-General to take the steps which he has taken and which have resulted in the present meeting. . . . .

"The statements or proposals which you draw up and address to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations will be placed by him before the Assembly in an annex to his report. There is, I believe, no exact precedent for such a procedure and the present occasion is, therefore, a specially interesting one. . . . .

"I have first to welcome you on behalf of the Secretary-General and to express his satisfaction that it has been possible for you to constitute this committee. It will be very advantageous that the Assembly should have before it from so representative a source a statement of the grounds on which the demand for greater equality between the sexes in regard to nationality is based and of the methods by which it is thought possible to give satisfaction to this demand by international action.

"I would like, on behalf of the Secretary-General, to wish you a most successful meeting and to say that the Secretariat will be glad to furnish any information which you may require and which it is able to supply. . . . ."

Maria Vérone then replied in behalf of the delegates, saying:

"We are here, not as nationals, nor as representatives of governments. We are here as women with an international point of view, and we are therefore free to speak in behalf of women the world around as to what we wish for women."

Mme. Vérone was elected chairman of the Women's Consultative Committee; Dorothy Evans was elected secretary; Miss Nobbs, assistant secretary; and Madeleine Doty, chief of press, being assisted by Mme. Schreiber-Favre and Helene Granitsch.

Four members of the Drafting Committee, Chrystal MacMillan, Mme. Bakker Nort, Alice Paul, and Mme. Vérone, prepared the draft report.

Women in Public Office

IN its most recent survey of women in public office the National League of Women Voters covers women in appointive and elective office in the Federal, State, county, and municipal governments, and gives the history of women in public office since the adoption of the Woman Suffrage Amendment.

The past few years have witnessed a marked increase in the number of women receiving appointments to administrative and executive positions, the survey revealed, and while most of the 89,000 women employed by the Federal Government on June 30, 1930, served in clerical, fiscal, or custodial positions, many of them worked in professional capacities such as department division chiefs, supervisors of special departmental activities, librarians, business specialists, legal assistants, scientists, statisticians, and naturalization officers.

Of the five women serving on independence boards and commissions at the time of the survey, four were presidential appointees. They were Annabel Matthews, member of the United States Board of Tax Appeals; Genevieve Cline, Associate Judge of the United States Customs Court; Bessie P. Grueggeman, chairman of the United States Employees' Compensation Commission; and Jessie Dell, member of the United States Civil Service Commission. The other woman serving on an independent board is Adelaide S. Baylor, chief of the Home Economics Service, Federal Board for Vocational Education.

Recognition of the ability of women to hold important executive positions in governmental departments has been most generously given in the Department of Labor, three of the four women bureau chiefs listed being in this department. These are Grace Abbott, chief of the Children's Bureau; Mary Anderson, director of the Women's Bureau; and Lulah T. Andrews, director of the Bureau of Industrial Housing and Transportation. Since the survey was made, however, Mrs. Andrews has gone to Omaha as director of employment for Nebraska. The other woman bureau chief listed is Dr. Louise Stanley, chief of the Bureau of Home Economics, United States Department of Agriculture.

Six women have attained executive positions in the Field Service of the Federal Government, according to this report. One, Anna Tillinghast, is Commissioner of Immigration at Boston and the other five are Collectors of Customs. They are Fannie Sutton Faison, assigned to the District of North Carolina; Jeanette A. Hyde, District of Hawaii; Jennie P. Muser, District of Utah and Nevada; Eddie McCall Priest, District of Tennessee; and Nellie Gregg Tomlinson, District of Iowa.

Thirteen women were listed as holding other important positions in the Departments of Interior, Justice, State, and Treasury, as well as in the government nursing service. In this last group is Major Julia Stimson, head of the Army

Nurses Corps, U. S. War Department, and the only woman with rank, insignia, and rights of a major in the United States Army.

A survey of the Foreign Service revealed that six women had passed the State Department examinations and been assigned to foreign service. Four of them are now serving as vice-consuls in the Foreign Service, and two resigned after a period of service. Three more women are serving as trade commissioners in foreign countries, and five are assistant trade commissioners.

Reviewing the record of women in the United States Congress, the survey listed thirteen women who had been sent to Congress, including Rebecca Latimer Felton, who was appointed to the Senate, November 21, 1922, for one day.

Three of the six women members of the next Congress, the seventy-second, were first elected to succeed dead husbands, the record of the women Congress mem- the record revealed. These are Florence Prag Kahn, Republican of California; Edith Nourse Rogers, Republican of Massachusetts; and Effiegene Wingo, Democrat of Arkansas.

The other three women members of the Congress which will convene in December are Mary Norton, Democrat of New Jersey; Ruth Bryan Owen, Democrat of Florida; and Ruth Baker Pratt, Republican of New York.

Rolls of the State Legislatures revealed 146 women legislators in thirty-nine States. Connecticut headed the list with twenty-one women on the roster of its State Legislature and sixty-four of the total number of women legislators are in the six New England States.

Last year saw a decrease in the number of women legislators from 1929, when there were 149 women serving in thirty-eight States, but an increase was recorded over 1927-28, when there were 126 women in the State Legislatures.

A review of the record of women in State governments recalled that only two women, Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming and Miriam A. Ferguson of Texas, have been elected governors and that they were not re-elected after their terms expired in 1926.

No woman has been elected a lieutenant governor and no State has ever had a women as attorney general, although several States have had women serving in the position of assistant attorney general, the report says.

Five women Secretaries of State were reported in office on January 1, 1931, and two States have women in the office of State Auditor or State Treasurer, while six other States have had women overseeing their financial transactions.

Of the five women listed as holding high administrative positions in State departments of labor, three hold office in New York. They are Frances Perkins, head of the New York State Department of Labor; Nelle Swartz, member of the State Industrial Board; and Frieda S. Miller, director of the Division of Women in Industry.

The other States which have given women representation in their Labor Departments are Indiana, where Jessie Gremelspacher is director of the Women's Division of the State Industrial Board; and California, where Katharine P. Edson served for a number of years as Chief of the Division of Industrial Welfare of the State Department of Industrial Relations.

In the state welfare departments women, apparently, have more representation with twenty-six States having women at the head of divisions of maternity, infancy, and child hygiene of the State Department of Health; two States having a woman for Commissioner of Public Welfare, and a third State having a woman Commissioner of Charities and Corrections.

Four women are serving as State Superintendents of Public Instruction, and women have been elected or appointed to a host of other State offices.

"In fact," the survey states, "there is hardly an administrative board or commission in State government organization which has not had a woman member. Women have been elected as State land commissioners, members of State boards of education, prison trustees, secretaries of civil and military affairs, clerks of public service commissions. They have been appointed to boards dealing with parole, health, child welfare, fisheries and game, athletics, agriculture, highways, finance, reformatories, prisons, embalming regulations, libraries, conservation, and labor."

Reviewing the history of women in the judicial service, the report found that two Ohio women, Florence E. Allen and Genevieve R. Cline, have the distinction of holding the highest judicial posts ever held by women.

Miss Cline was appointed Associate Judge of the U. S. Customs Court in 1928, after she had served as appraiser of merchandise for the port of Cleveland.

Miss Allen is a member of the Supreme Court of Ohio and the only woman serving on a Supreme Court in the United States.

Late in 1930, women were, for the first time, appointed as judges in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts and the clerkship of the State Supreme Court is held by women in two States.

Women are also serving as judges in the municipal courts of several cities, as probate judges in a number of States, and as presiding officers in many juvenile courts.

That women play their biggest part in county government was, however, brought out in the survey, although the records in this respect were not complete.

The office of county treasurer seemed to be one of the most popular for women, 193 women county treasurers being reported in fourteen States. Texas, especially, showed faith in the competence of women as guardians of county funds with 120 women serving as county treasurers in that State.

The job of county school superintendent is another frequently entrusted to women, particularly in the Midde West. In the five States of Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, and Nebraska alone, there are 161 women county school superintendents.

Other county offices filled by women include those of county commissioner, tax collector, assessor, auditor, clerk of court, sheriff, probate judge, surveyor, coroner, justice of the peace, and member of school and election boards.

Surveying the municipal governments it was found that, although women are mayors in a number of the smaller cities throughout the country, only Seattle, Washington, of all the larger towns, has had a woman mayor.

Several city councils have women members, however, and the office of city treasurer, city clerk, member of school committees, and member of city boards of education were found to rival certain county offices in their popularity with women office holders.

Mrs. Smith Gives Facts to Newspaper

WHEN the New York *Times* said editorially on June 26 that New York's amended 48-hour law which went into effect on July 1 met the wishes of women and was worked out in conference of those concerned, Jane Norman Smith, former chairman of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, wrote to the editor setting forth the facts in the case.

Mrs. Smith said in her letter:

"Your recent editorial on 'Women's Working Hours' stated that under the 48-hour law for women in mercantile establishments, 'women workers feel that at last the labor law has been amended in a way to cover their needs.'

"This is a mistake. Women workers in mercantile establishments were not consulted regarding this law. Every important organization of business women in the State protested to the Governor and to the Legislature against the passage of the 48-hour law for women and its

amendments, on the ground that since the proposal did not apply to men, its provisions were restrictive and denied to women an equal opportunity with men in earning a livelihood.

"In talking with over one hundred women employees of mercantile establishments in New York City after the passage of this law—women who had worked their way to higher paid positions — not one woman was found who approved of a 48-hour law or any other law for women which does not apply to their male competitors. They were all indignant because of the passage of the 48-hour law. 'If we had been handicapped by such a law, we never could have been advanced to higher paid work, for all responsible positions require considerable overtime,' they said. 'Men have no restrictions upon their hours of labor. If this law for women is enforced, it will mean that in many cases women will be replaced by men and in others they will be denied equal opportunities with men in obtaining employment and securing advancement.'

"During the last legislative session the following statement was issued:

"'The undersigned organizations, nearly all of which are composed of self-supporting women, have gone on record against special labor laws for women workers. They hold that women in the professions, in business, and in industry shall be free to work and protected as workers on the same terms as men. They are opposed to any legislation on a sex basis, on the ground that all legislation and regulations shall be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker:

"American Alliance of Civil Service Women; Brooklyn Business and Professional Women's Club; Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit Women's League; Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, Inc.; Brooklyn Women's Constitutional Hoover-Curtis Committee, Inc.; Business and Professional Women's Legislative Council of the State of New York; Employees' Mutual Benefit Association of the F. G. Shattuck Company; Equal Rights Association; League of Advertising Women; Legislative League of New York; National Association of Women Lawyers; National Woman's Party; National Women's Real Estate Association; New York City League of Business and Professional Women; New York State Federation of Business and Professional Women; New York State Women's Republican Club; Ray Current Events Club, Inc.; Society for Political Study; The New Yorkers; Women's Division, First Assembly District Republican Club, Kings County; Women's Equal Opportunity League; Women's Press Club of New York City; Zonta Club of Albany; Zonta Club of Brooklyn; Zonta Club of New York City."

Business Women for Equality

OPPORTUNITY for the development of individual capacity in industry with a fair reward for ability shown alike by men and women was one of the objectives outlined by Marion McClench of Ann Arbor, Michigan, president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, in a 10-year plan proposed at the biennial convention held recently in Richmond.

Miss McClench also urged the use of the vote by women to promote progress toward social and economic betterment and emphasized the need for constructive action on the part of women to lead in overcoming the economic depression.

"Since the vast majority of women who earn are to be found among the lowest paid workers, receiving less than artisans and laborers, it is natural that they should have a more than academic interest in the establishment of social justice," said Miss McClench.

Complaints of existing inequalities and discriminations against women in the professions were voiced by convention delegates, representing many fields of work.

"One of the most flagrant discriminations against women is the Civil Service classification of nurses and social workers as sub-professionals, rated beneath undertakers and their assistants," said Martha Connole, lawyer and politician of East St. Louis, Illinois, in asking the convention to empower a committee from the Business and Professional Women's Clubs to study proposals of employment legislation coming before the next Congress and to commit the Federation to support those providing economic justice to women.

"Political parties are barring women from a voice in their control and are preventing them from election to office," Miss Connole further charged.

"In many States there is a prejudice against women being trained in medicine and law. Law offices are closed to their necessary training as clerks which must precede their admission to the bar and certified public accountants refuse to let them have the necessary office experience which must precede their being granted licenses."

The final session of the convention closed on July 10, after Geline M. Bowman of Richmoud was elected president. About two thousand delegates, including representatives from foreign countries, were in attendance at the meeting.

Feminist Notes

Graduates From Men's School

MARGARET VIRGINIA ELLIS of Ashland, Virginia, was not discouraged by the name of her school, Randolph-Macon College for Men. This June she graduated, the only woman member of a class of fifty.

Equality in Air Races

FEMINISM has triumphed in the air! For the first time in the history of aviation men and women will compete on even terms in most of the events of the National Air Races to be held in Cleveland during the week of August 29 to September 7.

Women pilots are expected to compete in about forty closed course events about the Cleveland airport, in two tranconti-nental derbies, and perhaps in the Thompson trophy speed classic. And they will be in direct competition with men.

There will also be fifteen events open only to women, and twenty-five, including an autogyro race, open only to men.

Russian Doctor Dies

DR. TINA SHIPEROVICH, one of the first women to join the Red Army during the 1917 Russian Revolution, a distinguished official of the Communist party, and a prominent physician, died in Moscow in June.

Born in the Ghetto, escaping death in a number of pogroms, she entered Leningrad Medical College when she was 17 years old. After leaving the Red Army at the conclusion of the revolution, she resumed her medical studies, and at the time of her death she was chief physician of the Blagushinsky Hospital, one of the largest in Moscow.

The Spirit, Not the Letter—

LADY ASTOR, violent champion of her sex who has irritated parliamentarian gray-beards for many years and did so much to win the franchise for English women, wants more than legal equality between men and women. She says:

"I want to see women have an absolutely equal opportunity with men in everything. We'll get all that by laws, but there are some things that have nothing to do with laws; we have to get them through the heart."

Church Elder

E. ALICE JOYNT has been appointed elder of the First Presbyterian Church of East Jordan, Michigan, and will serve during 1931, 1932, and 1933.

Woman Appointed Register

MARTHA BYRNE has been appointed Register of New York County by Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York to succeed the late Rebecca F. Hoffman.

Miss Byrne is the third woman to hold this post, the highest paid job held by a woman in New York State. Her salary will be $12,000 a year. She was formerly secretary of the New York City Department of Correction and co-leader in the Fifth Assembly District with John F. Curry, head of Tammany Hall. She is vice-president of the Women's Democratic Club.

Miss Byrne has served the correction department, which has jurisdiction over eighteen penal institutions, since 1923. She has done much social work, particularly in efforts to improve housing conditions in the poorer districts.

Tour China Now!

A. VIOLA SMITH, United States Trade Commissioner at Shanghai, in co-operation with Anselm Chuh, Chinese secretary, has compiled and published, for the first time in English, a handbook on motor roads in China.

News from the Field

Garden Party

OFFICERS and members of the District of Columbia Branch of the National Woman's Party will be at home to their friends on Sunday afternoon, July 26, at Alva Belmont House. The occasion will be the third in a series of summer garden parties which the Woman's Party is giving, and speakers for the afternoon will stress the importance of Feminism as an international bond. Equal Rights for women in the proposed new constitutions for Spain and China, declarations for equality by the recent All-Asian Conference of Women, and the significance of the initial meeting of the League of Nations Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality, are hailed by the Woman's Party of the United States as evidences of the world-wide progress of the cause of Equal Rights.

Feminist News From Cuba

PILAR PALMA, corresponding secretary of the Alianza Nacional Feminista of Cuba, sends a warmly appreciative account of the visit to Havana of Mary Dean Powell, well-known Feminist and member of the Woman's Party.

The Central Executive Committee of the Alianza Nacional Feminista entertained Miss Powell at its meeting on June 19, and received a message to them entrusted to her by Doris Stevens, chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women:

"You know," Srta. Palma wrote in reply to Miss Stevens on behalf of the Alianza, "with how great an interest we follow your fruitful labor and with what admiration we hear your words of encouragement, pointing toward a juster and nobler future.

"The Alianza Nacional Feminista," she continues, "does not rest, and shall not rest, in pursuit of its fervent ideal which can never be other than obtaining civil and political rights for the women of Cuba!"

The *Boletin* of the Alianza also brings inspiring evidence of Cuba's Feminist spirit.

"The campaign initiated by the Inter-American Commission of Women following resolution, at its first congress in Havana, that there should be no distinction based on sex in law and practice respecting nationality, has been continued and intensified in the intervening period," declares Dr. Elena Mederos de González, representative of Cuba on the Inter-American Commission of Women. We quote from her stirring and eloquent article on progress toward an equal world code, which appears in the June number of the *Boletin*. She explains the splendid work carried on at Geneva under the guidance of Alice Paul, with the close co-operation of Blanca Z. de Baralt and Marta Vergara; and expresses the obligation of women the world over to the Latin-American members of the Council of the League, Srs. Matos of Guatemala, Zumeta of Venezuela, and Barreto of Peru.

Finally, commenting upon the personnel of the Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality, Dr. Mederos de González declares it to be "a worthy representation of the mighty effort of international organization realized by the women of the whole world. Therein are all ideologies and all modern tendencies, constituting a single front in defense of the interests of women and of humanity. Their voice will not be hushed until the abolition of all legal distinctions hampering the development of human life on a wholly equitable basis."

The vice-president of the Alianza, Dr. Graziella Barinaga de Ponce de Leon—a descendant of the Conquistador who discovered Florida, sought the Fountain of Youth, and was Porto Rico's first governor—has just published a valuable monograph entitled, "El Feminismo y el Hogar," a study of the social necessity of woman's civil and political equality.

Burmese Feminist

ONE of the most picturesque women among those at Geneva to sit on the Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality was May Oung of Burma, India. She represented the All-Asian Conference of Women.

Upon arrival at the headquarters of the Inter-American Commission of Women, she said: "It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity of working on the first women's committee that has been set up by the League of Nations to discuss women's position in nationality. Any modern constitution or convention must have the support of both men and women for its successful outcome. Therefore it is of the greatest importance that a code of international law should satisfy the aspirations of the women of the world for equality."

Miss Oung was vice-chairman of the All-Asian Conference of Women, held in Lahore, India, last January; she presided over the first meeting of the conference in place of Sarojini Naidu, who was prevented from presiding as she was then in prison for revolutionary agitation. At present Miss Oung is secretary of the permanent committee of All-Asian Women's Conference, secretary of the National Council of Women of Burma, and secretary of the Burmese Women's Association.

She is the only woman member of the Burmese Leaders' Conference on the new Burmese Constitution.

In addition to her many achievements as a Feminist, Miss Oung has won distinction as a scholar. She is a B. Litt. of Oxford and an M.A. of the University of Rangoon. At present she is superintendent of the National Girls' High School of Rangoon.

Miss Oung comes of a distinguished Burmese family, which has taken an important part in Burmese politics. Her father, the Honorable U. May Oung, was appointed home member of the Government. This office is one of the two appointed directly by the King of England. Her father and she won the Jardine Prize in 1896 and 1923, respectively, awarded for highest honors in the university's intermediate examination. It is the only instance, perhaps, where a father and daughter won the same prize, although in different years.

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